

**BT/CT/RAD Meeting  
Meeting minutes  
Tuesday April 5, 2011**

Present: Cheryl Gauthier, Tanya Swanson, Becky Hastings, Deborah Carter, Caryn Conley, Tracy Stiles, Johanna Vostok, Caley Heckman, Ginger Lijewski, Glenn Krumholz and Tom Coulombe.

Facilitator: Cheryl Gauthier  
Recorder: Giovanni Rosas

Cheryl Gauthier

- There will be Biological/Chemical/Radiological Terrorism trainings for first responders on April 6, April 20 and June 29. There will be ~20 persons participating in each session and they will be from Boston Police Department, Boston Fire/HazMat, Cambridge Fire/HazMat, CST, MassPort Fire/HazMat and the MBTA Police. Brief PowerPoint presentations will be followed by breakout sessions in the Radiation and BT laboratories.
- The VAV boxes for the BT lab will be replaced starting Wednesday afternoon and should be completed by Saturday. A new thermostat for each room will also be installed. Due to this work, the BT lab will be down until the work is completed.

Tom Coulombe

- Due to the recent nuclear plant leakage in Japan, the Radiation laboratory has been testing environmental samples for in cooperation with MWRA and DEP
- There will also be milk sampling to ensure the safety of milk produced in the state

Giovanni Rosas

- There will be a Webcast on April 13, the third part of the Liquid Chromatography series and a teleconference on April

27 on Challenges to Environmental LIMS and Data Exchange.

Glenn Krumholz

- New equipment that is being installed called Tessare. It is a microarray system which uses chips containing a large number of targets for various pathogens. This technology will allow us to greatly broaden the number of pathogens we can detect in a single test; the range is wider than that of a single real-time PCR test. At the moment, the platform is for experimental use only and no diagnostic testing will be performed.

Tracy Stiles

- The FERN conducted a lab capacity exercise in April 2011. On April 4<sup>th</sup> the FERN National Program office notified its member labs they had received a threat of ricin in infant formula. On April 5 the MA FERN representatives responded to the request for capacity assessment by saying we had 2 tetracore kits on hand and could process 24 samples in our microbiology lab.

Caley Heckman

- Northeast Regional Conference with clinical micro biologists on April 12 in Boxboro. Caley will discuss their (CST) capabilities.

Johanna Vostok and Ginger Lijewski

- Investigation on white powder. Florida woman who opened a package and she had a reaction and another one from Northboro was tested for asbestos.

Deborah Carter

- Past trainings in March were mentioned such as:
  - Hazardous Materials and Shipping.
  - Clinical Applications of Pathogen Detecting Microrrays
  - Grant Writing Mantra: Be Prepared
  - Emergence and Detection of Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceace
  - Molecular Diagnostic Testing
  - How to write an Organizational Background
  - Select Agent Update
  - Understanding Separation Theory

Also upcoming in April several conferences are scheduled:

- Condensing a Years work into Mere Pages
- Molecular Detection and Typing of Enteroviruses
- Susceptibility Testing of Mycobacteria
- Emerging and Resurging Infectious Disease Update
- Overcoming Challenges to Environmental LIMS and Data Exchange
- Providing Excellence: The Evaluation, Monitoring or Quality Section.

*Note : Chemical Threat Laboratory was actively involved in a surge capacity exercise with CDC and unable to attend the meeting,*